

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00528 101837Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-01 NSC-06 A-01
/034 W

-----107846 110416Z /72

R 101240Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8631
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0528

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP, IN, US
SUBJECT: CODEL WILLIAMS/STEVENS: DEFENSE MINISTER
RAM ON US MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY

1. DURING MEETING WITH CODEL WILLIAMS/STEVENS, JANUARY 5, DEFENSE MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM AGAIN TOUCHED ON QUESTION OF US MILITARY SUPPLIES TO INDIA. ISSUE AROSE WHEN RAM NOTED THAT ALONG WITH THE SOVIET UNION WESTERN EUROPE HAS BEEN TRADITIONAL ARMS SUPPLIER, AND WAS ASKED BY SENATOR WHY INDIA DID NOT GET ANY ARMS FROM US. RAM RECALLED THAT THE US HAD CUT OFF MILITARY SUPPLIES IN 1965 AT A CRITICAL TIME, THE INDO-PAK WAR. INDIA HAD PLACED NO ORDERS SINCE. HOW COULD IT APPROACH THE US, HE SAID, KNOWING WHAT THE US POLICY WAS. USG RULES STATED THAT AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS MUST BE ISSUED EXPORT LICENSES; THESE WERE NOT ISSUED IN THE CASE OF INDIA. WHEN SENATOR CANNON OBSERVED THAT US HAD ALSO CUT OFF ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN, RAM REPORTED THAT US HAD SENT THE PAKS THE SEVENTH FLEET. SENATOR HOLLINGS NOTED THAT CONGRESS

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AGREED ESSENTIALLY WITH PRESIDENT ON ARMS SUPPLY POLICY (WHICH AMBASSADOR GOHEEN HAD USED OCCASION TO EXPLAIN), BUT OBSERVED THAT IF BASIC ARMS WERE TO BE SHIPPED TO ANYONE, THEY SHOULD BE SENT TO DEMOCRATIC INDIA.

2. DISCUSSION SURFACED BRIEFLY IN SENATOR'S SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE WHEN SENATOR HOLLINGS NOTED THAT RAM HAD SHOWN

INTEREST IN US ARMS. SENATOR STEVENS THEN INTERVENED TO ADD THAT RAM HAD DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE FAILURE OF US SUPPLIER TO FULFILL THEIR CONTRACTS AT THE TIME OF THE INDO-PAK CONFLICT.

3. COMMENT: RAM'S REMARKS ARE GENERALLY SIMILAR TO THOSE HE MADE TO SENATOR SCOTT IN NOVEMBER (EMBASSY MEMCON NOVEMBER 8) IN WHICH HE COMPLAINED ABOUT ALLEGED US DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIA IN ARMS SUPPLY POLICY. UNLIKE SCOTT, THE SENATOR HE MET ON THIS OCCASION DID NOT ASK HIM WHAT WEAPONRY THE GOI MIGHT SEEK FROM THE US IF THE "DISCRIMINATORY POLICY WERE CHANGED. (HE HAD TOLD SCOTT "AIRCRAFT, FIGHTERS, TANKS, AND MISSILES.")).
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CODELS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE00528
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780015-0773
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780181/aaaacqbs.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cfabeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3801340
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL WILLIAMS/STEVENS: DEFENSE MINISTER RAM ON US MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY
TAGS: OREP, MASS, IN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cfabeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014